



Flight Jacket

Vol. 5, No. 3

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

January 17, 2003

ATFW units deploy in support of OEF

Story By Sgt. A.C. Strong

MCAS Miramar

More than 10,000 west coast Marines and Sailors, aboard seven ships, are underway today, having received orders to deploy in support of the global war on terrorism and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"We are repositioning some of our forces, where required, in order to prepare for and support the president's campaign against terrorism," said Maj. T. V. Johnson, Director, Miramar Public Affairs. "We stand ready to support all efforts to locate and identify terrorists as well as those who choose to harbor them."

This deployment follows the recent departure of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable). The 15th MEU left San Diego with the *USS Tarawa* Amphibious Ready Group, Jan. 6, for a regularly scheduled, six-month deployment to the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf, according to 3rd Fleet Public Affairs representatives.

The primary difference between an ARG and an Amphibious Task Force is that the ARG trains together with a designated Marine Expeditionary Unit for six months be-

See **ATFW**, page 11



ABOARD USS TARAWA — Marines with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) peer outside and see their sister ship of the Tarawa Amphibious Ready Group, the *USS Duluth* Jan. 10. Photo by Cpl. Anthony R. Blanco

Transformation theme at CMC change ceremony

Story by Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Gen. James L. Jones turned over command of the U.S. Marine Corps Monday to Gen. Michael W. Hagee during a ceremony at the U.S. Naval Academy here.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said the two men have more than 70 years serving the Corps and being advocates for it. "They know the grave consequences of war, they have fought with energy and intellect to keep America safe and our people secure," he said.

Gen. Jones will become the commander, U.S. European Command and NATO's

supreme allied commander, Europe, later this month. Gen. Hagee comes to the commandant's job from Camp Pendleton, where he'd been the commander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

Rumsfeld said the United States was attacked on Sept. 11, 2001, because it represents freedom. "To live as free people in this 21st century, our country must be able to defend our way of life against the forces of ter-

ror and fear," he said.

The secretary emphasized the military must transform to face new-millennium threats. "We are truly fortunate to have men and women of courage who are able to look over the horizon at what is possible, and to help in transforming the military to meet the new challenges we face in this dangerous

new century," he said.

Rumsfeld said Gen. Hagee has demonstrated his fitness to be commandant by commanding at every echelon in the Corps from platoon to MEF. He said he expects Gen. Hagee to continue to accelerate the process of transformation in the Marine Corps and the rest of the armed services.

The secretary praised Gen. Jones for his transformational attitude. He specifically cited the commandant's decision to reactivate the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade — a unit aimed specifically at defeating terrorism — and at his efforts to integrate Navy and Marine Corps aviation.

"He's also initiated a new bond between the Marines and the U.S. Special Operations Command," the secretary said. "Marines and special (operations) forces, both extraordinarily quick and agile, can be even more capable when working closely together."

When Gen. Jones goes to Europe, he will become the first Marine officer to hold U.S. and NATO positions. Rumsfeld called on him to champion transformation among the NATO allies. The secretary stated that transformation is as important to the alliance as it is to the Department of Defense, if the alliance is to remain relevant.

During his remarks, Gen. Jones called the all-volunteer force, formed in 1973, the "most transformational event" in the military in recent decades. He said the force to-

See **CMC**, page 10



Gen. Michael W. Hagee



Gen. James L. Jones

Inside

Weekend forecast from Miramar's weather station



78 ° / 44 °
Today



71 ° / 46 °
Saturday



71 ° / 46 °
Sunday

**Marine
returns
home**



Page 6

**Jaguars
play in
'Fog Bowl'**



Page 9

Miramar Mail



Why are the Marines on this base not afforded additional financial institutions, such as Navy Federal, in addition to the financial institution currently on base?

**Gunnery Sgt. Mark Thornton
aviation pc chief
MALS-11 ALSS**

According to SECNAVINST 5381.5A Para 4.b (4) – financial institutions on Navy and Marine Corps Installa-

tions Regulation, Installation Commanders shall not seek the provision of financial services from any entity other

than the on-base banking office or credit union. Proposals to seek the provision of financial services by institutions off the installation, when such services are available from existing on-base institutions, shall be approved by the Comptroller of the Navy (NAFC-44).

In addition, Department of Defense Directive 1000.11, Para 4.1.1 states "Except where they already may exist as of May 1, 2000, no more than one banking institution and one credit union shall be permitted to operate on a DoD installation."

Concerns with on-base banking have been brought to the attention of Capt. Jeffrey K. Daniels, special projects officer, MCAS Miramar Marine Corps Community Services. According to Daniels, MCCS is presently working with installation entities to address certain issues in order to improve quality of services to the Marines and Sailors aboard Miramar.

Further questions can be addressed to Daniels at 577-9872.



Brig. Gen. Jon A. Gallinetti

**E-mail your questions to the Commanding General,
Marine Corps Air Station Miramar at:
ombpaoflight@miramar.usmc.mil**

Tax Center coming soon

Story by Cpl. Robert W. Wynkoop

MCAS Miramar

Free federal and state income tax filing services will be available Jan. 27 at the Tax Center, located in the north section of the library here.

The Tax Center will be open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., according to 1st Lt. Shawn L. Smith, Tax Center officer-in-charge.

Tax Center customers who owe money or expect a refund should bring their bank routing number along with their account numbers for direct deposit, Smith said.

"We are electronically filing all returns," said Smith. "This makes it a fairly quick turn around time."

Using the Tax Center's services will save families money, regardless of their tax situation.

"For an average young, single marine we're saving them about \$75 for the average 1040EZ form, and for the more complicated returns, we'll save them at least \$100," said Smith.

Filers should have Social Security numbers or Employer Identification numbers for all day-care providers, amounts paid, and addresses on hand.

If a service member is overseas and his or her spouse is filing for both of them, spouses must bring a copy of the power of

attorney authorizing them to file and sign for the deployed service member. Taxpayers must have the following forms with them when filing:

W-2's – All W-2 forms for spouse and self for 2003;

1099INT – All interest received statements for 2003;

1099MISC – Any miscellaneous income received, self-employment, rental property, etc., for 2001;

1099DIV – All dividends and gain from stock and mutual funds for 2001;

1099B – All proceeds from sale or transference of stock for 2001;

1099R – All proceeds from a pension, annuity, or IRA, and any amounts rolled over from a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA for 2001.

Military personnel deployed to a designated combat zone or qualified hazardous duty areas will be granted an automatic extension on the filing date, Smith said.

"Interest will not accrue from Apr. 15 and the extension of time will encompass the period of service in the combat zone or hazardous duty area, as well as any hospitalization from injury, plus 180 days," said Smith.

The extension also applies to deployed service members' spouses.

Printable W-2 forms are available on the military pay Web site: <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

Store 'em right or get a ticket

Story by Cpl. Robert W. Wynkoop

MCAS Miramar

Deploying vehicle owners must contact the Traffic Management Office here before deploying to reserve a place to park in the designated deployment parking area.

"A guarded, well-lit parking area is available in east Miramar for Marines deployed longer than two weeks," said Master Sgt. Gabriel Flores, operations chief, Provost Marshal's Office.

Using the deployment lot is in the best interest of the owner, Flores said, because if a vehicle is vandalized and the owner is deployed, PMO will be unable investigate the incident.

In addition to the owners' safety, the air station needs available parking spaces at both barracks and shop parking lots in case reservists are called to active service on the air station, said 1st Lt. Earnest C. Lincoln, operations officer, PMO.

The consequences for not using the parking area will become very costly, according to Lincoln.

"If a vehicle's registration expires during one's deployment and the vehicle is on the air station, it will be towed."

All contents inside the vehicle become property of the tow company and a lien will be put on the vehicle if left with the tow company for more than 45 days. Picking up a towed vehicle will cost an automatic \$185 for the tow, payable by

the owner. Lincoln explained the air station is not responsible for any vehicles towed off the station.

Commanders are encouraged to enforce the policy of using the deployment parking lot before departure.

For more information contact TMO vehicle storage at 577-8405.



Sgt. Anthony Westich, military police officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, tickets a vehicle parked in a red zone here. The Provost Marshal's Office announced plans to strictly enforce parking regulations. Photo illustration by Sgt. C. Nuntavong

OPSEC

It could save a life!



Flight Jacket

Newspaper Staff

**Brig. Gen.
Jon A. Gallinetti**
Commander
Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area

**Maj. Gen.
James F. Amos**
Commanding General
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

Maj. T.V. Johnson Director, CPAO
1st Lt. John E. Niemann Deputy, CPAO
2nd Lt. Carolyn M. Nelson Managing Editor
Sgt. A. C. Strong Press Chief
Sgt. C. Nuntavong Editor

Sgt. Matthew P. Shelato
Cpl. David B. Bailey
Cpl. Robert W. Wynkoop
Combat Correspondents

The Flight Jacket is published every Friday at no cost to the government by Military Guides, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Navy or the U.S. Marine Corps under an exclusively written contract with the U.S. Marine Corps. This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for the military services, contents of the *Flight Jacket* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Navy, or the U.S. Marine Corps. It is for informational purposes only and in no way should be considered directive in nature. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, or the Military Guides, of the products or service advertised. Everything advertised in this publication must be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. All queries concerning business matters, display ads, or paid classified ads should be directed to Military Guides, 9636 Tierra Grande, Suite 201, San Diego, California 92126, or (858) 547-7343.

Marine Corps implements Stop Loss, Stop Move

Story by Sgt. C. Nuntavong

MCAS Miramar

The Marine Corps implemented the Stop Loss policy for Marine Corps personnel effective Jan. 15, and Stop Move policy on all orders for Marines with a detach date after Feb. 15.

These policies are designated to assist in meeting manpower requirements for future operations, developments in mission requirements and Marine Corps involvement in current operations.

“All Marines, officer and enlisted, active and reserve components are affected by Stop Loss,” said Lt. Col. Brian J. Byrne, manpower enlisted plans section officer-in-charge, Headquarters Marine Corps.

According to Byrne, the Stop Loss is a short-term policy that stabilizes Marines in their current assignment by preventing them from leaving the Corps at the end of their service. In addition, Stop Move is a policy that stabilizes Marines in their current assignment by preventing their move to another unit.

Disability retirements and separations, and separations for cause are unaffected. Other Stop Loss exemptions include hardship, discharge for pregnancy, discharge in lieu of court-martial, high-year-of-tenure retirements and separation.

“The first General Officer in the Marine’s Chain of Command can authorize a Marine to separate,” said Byrne. “Headquarters Marine Corps will retain final approval authority for retirements.”

Marines with an approved retirement of Apr. 1, or earlier, will retire as planned. Marines with an approved retirement date after Apr. 1 will retire unless their commanders request the retirement date be delayed or canceled.

“Currently, we estimated that 16,000 Marines, officers and enlisted, will be impacted by the Stop Loss Policy between Jan. 15 and Sept. 30, 2003,” said Byrne. “For officers, initial estimates for Stop Move are that this temporary policy could potentially impact as many as 2,000 officers. For enlisted Marines, approximately 4,500 Marines will be affected through the Stop Move Policy within the next 90

days. The longer the policy remains in effect, the greater these numbers will increase.”

Cpl. Eric A. Durnin, orders clerk, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, planned on attending Valencia Community College, Orlando, Fla. in the fall of 2003 before the Stop Loss Policy extended his current contract.

“In the beginning I was upset,” said the Orlando, Fla., native, “but now I have more time to save money and plan for my future.”

According to Byrne, the length of Stop Loss and Stop Move Policies has not been determined.

“On a weekly basis, manpower officials will review the current Stop Loss and Stop Move Policy to ensure that it still supports the missions given to the Marine Corps,” he said. “As these missions change, the policy will change to remain relevant to the current and future situations.”

The last time the Marine Corps implemented a Marine Corps-wide Stop Loss Policy was during the Persian Gulf Crisis in 1990 and 1991.

For more information contact your career planner or visit www.usmc.mil/marinelink/mcn2000.nsf/stoploss.

‘Raider 04’ memorial from Pakistan returned to VMGR-352

Story by Sgt. Matthew P. Shelato

MCAS Miramar

A Jan. 9 ceremony held here, honored the crew of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352’s “Raider 04,” with the presentation of a commemorative plaque by Army Lt. Col. Mario Coronel, commanding officer, 561st Army Corps Support Battalion.

Members of the 561st CSB presented the commemorative plaque, originally dedicated at the crash site memorial on a remote mountain in western Pakistan, soon after the crash, which claimed the lives of the entire crew.

The 561st CSB were being deployed to Pakistan when the aircraft went down near the Army unit’s area of operation.

“We climbed to the top of the mountain once to survey the wreckage, a second time to place the initial memorial and a third time to conduct a memorial service and dedicate this memorial at that site,” said Coronel.

Members of 561st CSB constructed the memorial at their base camp from available raw materials after their second trip to the crash site. On it were the names and pictures of each of the Marines involved in the incident, and Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352’s crest.

The ingenious design of the memorial allowed it to be broken down into three sections, to make transportation by foot easier. Each section was carried up the mountain to the crash site on the back of a soldier.

Once at the site, the memorial was bolted together. Finally, seven United States Ensigns were bolted to the top of the memorial. Their bright colors stood out in bold contrast to the bleak surroundings on the mountainside.

Coronel said he and the other soldiers at the crash site couldn’t help feeling emotional at the dedication of the memorial on the mountain.

“We are inherently linked to (VMGR-352), and the Marines and family members of those who lost their lives in support of operation Enduring Freedom.”

When 561st CSB’s tour of duty in Pakistan was over, the monument was removed from the mountain site and brought back to the United States.

For now, the memorial made by the army unit is on display in the lobby at Hangar 0, alongside a mural depicting the first memorial built in Pakistan. After an undetermined period of time, the memorial will be donated to the Flying Leatherneck Museum, where it will be placed on permanent display.

“Our hope is that the memorial will in some way be an element of peace and comfort to (VMGR-352),” Coronel said.

The heroes of “Raider 04” are pilot, Capt. Matthew W. Bancroft; co-pilot, Capt. Daniel G. McCollum; flight engineer, Gunnery Sgt. Stephen L. Bryson; loadmaster, Staff Sgt. Scott N. Germosen; flight mechanic, Sgt. Nathan P. Hays; flight navigator, Lance Cpl. Bryan P. Bertrand; and radio operator, Sgt. Jeannette L. Winters.



Capt. Nathan E. Jubeck, a Grand Ledge, Mich. native, and flight duty officer, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, examines the memorial to the victims of the crash of ‘Raider 04.’ The memorial was built by 561st Army Corps Support Battalion, and was placed at the remote mountain crash site before it was presented on the one-year anniversary of the crash. *Photo by Sgt. Matthew P. Shelato*

Morning Colors Ceremony honors Community

Story by Matthew P. Shelato

MCAS Miramar

A morning Colors ceremony was held Jan. 10, honoring members of the San Diego community who have given support to area service members and their families.

Organizations including the United Airlines Clipped Wings Association, Ladies Auxiliary Post 1774 and the San Diego County Healthy SHARE program were honored at the ceremony.

These organizations have overseen the distribution of thousands of meals, gift certificates and other nonperishable goods and necessities for shipment to deployed Marines and Sailors and supporting their families here at home.

“We can’t express what a morale builder these donations are,” said 1st Lt. Jeni M. Froehlich, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing family readiness/human affairs officer.

Froehlich said station Marines as well as those on deployment depend upon the motivation they receive from the community to carry out their daily tasks.

“Without the community involvement and volunteerism of the Marine Corps family we wouldn’t exist. We’d like to let them

know we’re thankful.”

Honored guests at the ceremony were treated to a performance by the 3rd MAW Band, and were recognized individually by Maj. Gen. James F. Amos, commanding general, 3rd MAW.

Also recognized were the staff members of the Marine Corps Family Readiness programs and Marine Corps Family Team Building.

“This morning’s ceremony is a vital tradition that we hold near and dear to our hearts,” said Bonnie Amos, spouse of 3rd MAW commanding general. “This is our way of saying thanks to a community which has come together during difficult times to help support our deployed Marines,” she said.

It was hard not to notice the Marine presence among the crowd. Among the guests were members of the Marine Corps League, former Marines and family members of San Diego area Marines.

“This is also a chance for us to say thank you to the families and the volunteers on station who do so much for us,” she said. “We couldn’t maintain the operational level here at Miramar without the cooperation and dedication of so many friends and families.”



Members of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band perform for the honored guests of a Morning Colors Ceremony held at the 3rd MAW Headquarters Building Friday. The guests represented charitable organizations within the San Diego community that have donated their time and effort to improving the morale and quality of life for station Marines. Photo by Sgt. Matthew P. Shelato



Watch ‘Wingspan’ on channel 44 at 11 a.m.
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

King remembered for all he did

Story by Cpl. David B. Bailey

MCAS Miramar

“I have a dream.” The famous speech of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. a civil rights activist of the 60’s and 70’s.

King’s birthday is celebrated every year with the remembrance of his birthday on the third Monday of January. The first celebration of this holiday, which is the only federal holiday commemorating an African-American, occurred January 20, 1986.

“It is important for all people not just

African-Americans to understand all that Dr. King endured during his civil rights movements,” said Gunnery Sgt. Christopher J. Massari, equal opportunity advisor, headquarters and headquarters squadron. “People need to understand the meaning behind the holiday.”

3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron held their observance Jan. 16 at the Station Theater.

The guest speaker for the remembrance ceremony was Navy Chaplain Capt. Ulysses Downing Jr., 3rd MAW chaplain.



Signs such as the one seen in this photograph, are a prime example of the hardships that African-Americans had to face in the early 60’s and 70’s. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a civil rights activist, who fought to abolish discrimination. Photo by Jack Delano. Courtesy of the Library of Congress. Reproduction number LCUSF33-20522-M2.



ABOARD USS TARAWA — Continuing their training while underway, Marines and Sailors of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) and Sailors of the USS Tarawa prepare a CH-53E Super Stallion Helicopter for take off. Photo by Cpl. Anthony R. Blanco

VMGR-352 home to a San Diego 'Rag Flag'

Story by Sgt. Matthew P. Shelato

MCAS Miramar

A new type of flag is being displayed in the lobby at Hangar 0. It is constructed of coarse, odorous burlap, whose frayed sides require 100-mph tape to keep it together. The flag is decorated with tattered strips of cloth, most having some kind of message written all over them in bold black marker.

And the members of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352 are proud of it.

A display in VMGR-352's lobby represents two projects presented by "Flags Across the Nation," a Calif. Public Benefit and Charitable Corporation. The program was started by Eileen A. Schwartz, a San Diego native, to document patriotism in the San Diego community through photographs, children's artwork and handmade National Ensigns.

"It's my organization's goal to promote patriotism through the arts. Our mission is to unite, educate and enrich the lives of the diverse population in our country," Schwartz said.

One of the most visible projects of "Flags Across the Nation" is the "Rag Flag." Schwartz admittedly borrowed the idea from a Boy Scout project displayed at the San Diego International Airport, Lindbergh Field.

"Our 'Rag Flag' represents the tying together of diverse groups to create an American Flag out of cloth that's red, white and blue," she said.

Schwartz said that along with the photographic documentation her organization started with, she wanted a written history of people's thoughts and ideas about patriotism, and their feelings for the troops committed to the war against terrorism.

Some of the messages on the flag include references to the Bible and comments such as "I love America!" and "Thanks for peace!"



Gunnery Sgt. Kelly O. Jackson, line division chief, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, attaches a ribbon to the 'Rag Flag' in the lobby at Hangar 0. The 'Rag Flag' is a project of 'Flags Across the Nation,' a non-profit organization started by Eileen A. Schwartz, of San Diego. The ribbons tied to the flag represent the tying together of groups of people who may be of different race, culture or creed. Photo by Sgt. Matthew P. Shelato

"What we want to do is document people writing their message, and move the flag from command to command, so it can be seen by our troops."

There are currently four "Rag Flags." They have been seen at prominent places throughout San Diego, including Balboa Park, the Gas Lamp District, the San Diego City Administration Building and with several veterans organizations in the area.

The fourth "Rag Flag" has been on display with VMGR-352 since their 2002 Christmas party. As Marines walk through the lobby where it is displayed, new ribbons are tied on the flag.

"The 'Rag Flag' gives us all a source of pride and a sense

that people back home still support us," said Capt. Charles A. Pickett, KC-130 pilot, VMGR-352.

Pickett has helped Schwartz coordinate with VMGR-352 to arrange the photo display in the lobby of Hangar 0.

"I liked what Mrs. Pickett was doing and began helping out as much as I could," he said. "How could you not get involved with something like that?"

"The flag and pictures on display are growing on me. I hope they remain a permanent addition to the Raider team."

"Flags Across the Nation" is looking for volunteers, philanthropists and patriotic art for their programs. For more information on this nonprofit organization and its other projects, call Eileen A. Schwartz at (858) 922-2545.

Corps sends Marine home to Afghanistan

Story by Cpl. David B. Bailey

MCAS Miramar

All Cpl. Abdul M. Anbari can remember of his childhood homeland is refugee camps and the invasion of the Red Army.

Anbari, a Kabul, Afghanistan native, moved to the United States in 1992, after fleeing from the invasion of the Red Army to Pakistan.

“My parents realized that staying in Afghanistan would not hold any future for their children, so they decided to move us here,” said Anbari, who is a crew chief with Medium Marine Helicopter Squadron 364, a reserve squadron. “After moving to the U.S., I understood what it meant to feel free.”

Anbari enlisted in the Marine Corps after moving to the United States, at the age of 24. He has been in the Corps for a little over three years now and says he absolutely loves it.

“The reason I enlisted is to help repay a debt to a country that gave me a life of freedom,” said Anbari. “This is only a little step in my effort to repay this debt.”

After spending two years in the Corps, Anbari decided it was time to make a difference. He put in a request to volunteer in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Anbari made quite an impression on 1st Lt. Jared E. Rieckewald, intelligence officer, HMM – 364. According to Rieckewald, Anbari immediately expressed a desire to return to his homeland; he made



Cpl. Abdul M. Anbari, crew chief, Medium Marine Helicopter Squadron 364, stands atop the wing of a MIG-21 Fishbed, a jet aircraft used by the Russian Army during their invasion of Afghanistan. *Photo courtesy of Cpl. Abdul M. Anbari*

it clear that he had a “personal interest” in supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Anbari was selected to help support OEF by providing translation between the Afghan people and American military personnel. Being a translator helped to stabilize the efforts that forces were trying to implement with the newly established Afghan government. He also worked security forces while in support of OEF.

“It was great to see a nation that has been in a tragic decline for the past decade,

finally liberate. The Afghan people really appreciate all that the Americans were and are currently still doing for their country,” said Anbari.

While in support of OEF, Cpl. Anbari participated in more than 200 hours of firefight because of his actions he has been nominated for numerous combat action decorations. Included in the awards he has been nominated for include but are not limited to the Bronze Star and Combat Action Ribbon.

The Bronze Star is awarded to any

person who, while serving in any capacity in, or with, the military of the United States after Dec. 6, 1941, distinguished him or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, while engaged in action against enemy of the United States.

“Cpl. Anbari would be an asset in any operation he helps support,” said Rieckewald, a Hacienda Heights, native. “His presence will be felt anywhere he goes.”



Anbari pours water over his sister's headstone to clean it off. Anbari returned to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. This gave him his first opportunity since leaving Afghanistan to visit his sister's gravesite. *Photo courtesy of Cpl. Abdul M. Anbari*



On Jan. 24, Intersport Productions, in cooperation with Marine Corps Recruiting Command, will present The College Football All-Star Challenge from 3 to 5 p.m. at Ballfield #2 next to the Fitness Center Gymnasium here. See top NFL prospects, including Ken Dorsey and Brad Banks, compete in a series of skills competitions to measure strength, speed and agility. The show will air Super Bowl Sunday at 12:30 p.m. on Fox. *Photo courtesy of Intersport Productions*

Operation Interdependence endures the long deployment

Story by Sgt. Brian J. Griffin

MCB Camp Pendleton

Thousands of Marines are deployed all over the world every year. They endure long absences from home sometimes in some of the most austere places on earth. Sometimes they might need a new toothbrush or some socks. Maybe they crave a piece of candy or a cookie, but those items aren't too easily come by in some areas where the Corps operates.

Operation Interdependence, a civilian-to-military delivery system, strives to make those small creature comforts a reality. Albert Renteria, a retired 26-year Marine veteran who knows what service members miss during deployments, founded the program.

Renteria, a Gulf War veteran, began laying out the groundwork for Operation Interdependence (OI) during his tour in the Gulf more than a decade ago.

"I realized during the Gulf War there was no real effective process that managed care package deliveries to our Marines," he said. "Working there and taking part in developing reach back capabilities gave me a great perspective on how best to launch OI. All of this experience and seeing how packages raised morale is why I started the program."

The packages are designed to provide a lot of useful items. Even the material they're packed in, large zip lock bags, can be used to store items and keep gear or photos dry.

"Not only did they send us stuff we needed like toothpaste and brushes, they also sent us letters and pictures so we could write back and correspond with people from all over the country," said Cpl. Matthew Huber, embarkation non-commissioned officer, L Company, Battalion Landing Team 3/1, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable). "It just made us feel good to know there were people out there that care and take time out to remember us."

See **OI**, page 11



Handing out treats, Cpl. Mark Poffenberger, fire support clerk, gives 1st Lt. Julie Grinnell, Marine Air Control Group liaison, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), a goodie bag from Operation Interdependence during their recent deployment to the Central Command Area of Operations. The 11th MEU (SOC) received numerous boxes filled with bags of materials for the Marines and sailors from Operation Independence, a program founded by a retired Marine in August 2001, which supports deployed forces worldwide. Photo by Cpl. Mace M. Gratz

15th MEU (SOC) enhances NBC skills

Story by Cpl. Anthony R. Blanco

15th MEU

ABOARD USS TARAWA – Americans have been able to live without fear from a nuclear, biological or chemical attack since the Cold War ended more than a decade ago. However, the Marines and Sailors of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) continually train for the possibility of a NBC attack.

During an exercise which simulated the ship being hit with an NBC attack Jan. 9, Marines and Sailors were required to have their gas masks ready for the assault at all times.

Once the NBC alarm came over the ship's intercom, all Marines and Sailors on board stopped what they were doing to don their gas masks.

"It caught me off guard because I was not expecting it at that time," said Sgt. Alex C. Sanchez, 23, a motor transportation mechanic with the 15th MEU (SOC), from Harlingen, Texas.

"Even though this was a drill, the Navy and the MEU didn't treat it as one – they treated this as the real thing."

Sanchez did a similar exercise at Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., where he was fully dressed in his Mission Oriented Protective Posture Level 4 suit for four hours.

A MOPP Level 4 suit covers the Marine's entire body and is able to protect them from a NBC contaminated environment. For this drill, Marines and Sailors wore their gas masks while at work.

The Harlingen native thought the exercise, which required everyone to wear their gas masks for more than an hour, was beneficial to everyone and was a good starter for NBC training.

"I thought this training was good because it let everyone walk around with their gas masks while doing everyday tasks," Sanchez said. "It also help prepare me for what we might do in the Middle East."

Along with Sanchez, Lance Cpl. Danny L. Espinoza, 19, an assaultman with Battalion Landing Team 2/1, a native of Lajunta, Colo., said walking around with his gas mask is nothing new.

"This is great training," Espinoza said. "This is something that we should continually train for – practice makes perfect. When we go to the field, our gas mask goes everywhere we go."

Some Marines who have never been overseas began to realize the seriousness of being prepared for a possible NBC attack.

"It's nice to know that the MEU is giving us this training so that we will be ready in the future," said Lance Cpl. Chris R. McKay, 20, a small computer systems specialist who is a native from Woodland Park, Colo.

While this training helped the Marines and Sailors become more familiar with their gas masks, it also helped them realize the difficulties associated while wearing their gas mask when working, according to Chief Warrant Officer 2 Alex Robinson, NBC officer for the 15th MEU (SOC), who is a native from Carlsbad, Calif.

Some units within Battalion Landing Team 2/1 began preparing for the possibility of a NBC attack by wearing their gas masks when conducting physical training.

"By training with your gas mask, it helps Marines understand the difficulties of breathing while wearing it," said Cpl. Frank Apachee, 23, a rifleman with BLT 2/1, who is a native of Flagstaff, Ariz. "Running in your gas mask is a good mental check because it's a lot harder to breath with it on. When you're tired and out of breath, it takes a lot of discipline not to break the seal on your gas mask."

Other units part of BLT 2/1 have designated Thursdays as 'gas mask Thursdays' when everyone in the BLT is required to carry their gas mask, according to Staff Sgt. Ronnie Smith, the martial arts instructor for BLT 2/1, who is a native of Mount Olive, Miss.

"Prior to coming on this deployment, we went to the gas chamber in the first week of December to help us prepare for a NBC attack," Smith said. "On ship we have had NBC training classes and we have also gone through NBC decontamination procedures."

Other units decided to use the drill as an opportunity for their Marines to wear their gas masks in their work environments.

Whether it was turning a wrench on an AV-8B Harrier attack jet or working behind a computer, every Marine received the chance to wear their gas mask in the work area.

In addition to this training, NBC Marines from the MEU are going to give specialized training classes in the future about the effects of chemical agents and how to administer Atropine, an automatic injector to help prevent the effects of a nerve agent.



Sgt. C. C. Poole, of Coos Bay, Ore., assistant team leader with Trailer Platoon, Battalion Landing Team 2/1, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) adjusts the straps on Cpl. Casey R. Hillard's gas mask during a training class to determine its serviceability Jan. 11. Hillard, 23, a native of Concord, Calif., is a squad automatic rifleman with the Maritime Special Purpose Force's Trailer Platoon. Photo by Cpl. Anthony R. Blanco

No one was immune from wearing the gas mask during the drill. Colonel Thomas D. Waldhauser, commanding officer of the 15th MEU (SOC), walked throughout the ship wearing his gas mask to see how his Marines were dealing with the situation.

"This training is as critical as the basic rifleman skills Marines learn in boot camp because the best way to combat NBC agents is with knowledge," said Gunnery Sgt. Howard Macaulay, the NBC chief for the 15th MEU (SOC) who is a native from Reno Nev.



LAVs rock and roll

Light Armored Vehicles from Light Armored Reconnaissance Platoon, Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 2/2, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), head out to a range in the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility during a recent exercise.

Marines and Sailors from the 24th MEU (SOC) are now ashore participating in a live-fire exercise in the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility.

During the exercise Marines from the BLT have participated in several live-fire and maneuver ranges, testing their ability to shoot, move and communicate in a desert environment. They are also focusing on the use of combined arms with support from the Air Command Element and Fox Battery.

Marines from the MEU Service Support Group have also conducted several exercises and are working hard to keep the MEU operating smoothly by maintaining and fixing vehicles and equipment and making logistics and re-supply runs. The ACE is busy moving personnel and supplies, while also providing close air support for various missions on the ranges here. Photo by Sgt. Zachary A. Bathon

MAG Dawgs win 'Fog Bowl'

MAG-39 parlays late-season acquisitions and Miramar's declining personnel fortunes into runaway win



The Miramar Jaguars make a last attempt to redeem themselves through the fog in Monday night's game. Miramar fell to the Marine Aircraft Group 39 Mad Dawgs in a disappointing 28-7 loss. Photo by Cpl. David B. Bailey

Story by Richardson Miron

MCB Camp Pendleton

You almost had the feeling Jim Shepard felt guilty for dominating his longtime friend and football counterpart. All season long, the Marine Aircraft Group 39 coach made it known he wanted a piece of his good pal and biggest rival, Richard Mohney and the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Jaguars.

However when the showdown finally arrived, the Mad Dawgs – aided by a late infusion of talent including Larry Lawrence, last year's Golden Helmet player of the Year, and coupled with a Miramar personnel crunch created by recent or imminent deployments – wiped the floor with Miramar, winning 28-7 Monday night in smothering fog at the 11 Area football field.

The Dawgs ran away from the Jaguars with three second-half touchdowns, including two by Lawrence, who joined the Mad Dawgs in time for the game after sitting out the season on a college deferment.

Shepard barely cracked a smile at the result. He didn't razz his friend when they met



Larry Lawrence, 22, makes a break for the endzone in the flat as quarterback Jim Shepard looks on. Lawrence rushed for more than 100 yards and two second-half touchdowns in his debut as a Mad Dawgs. Photo by Cpl. David B. Bailey

midfield after the game, and he didn't boast to the media about his big win or his coaching superiority.

All the classy Shepard did was tip his cap to Mohney, who in all likelihood coached his last Camp Pendleton intramural football game.

"I think the world of Mohney," Shepard said after the Mad Dawgs lay claim to the regular-season title. "Tonight, he was over-matched. He didn't have all his guys. But he's a great coach and a great friend and I love him to death."

Mohney, whose military duty is scheduled to finish in February, encountered too many obstacles for his undermanned Miramar squad to overcome.

First, there was the fact several of Miramar's key players couldn't make the game due to work-related obligations. MAG, on the other hand, had all of its key contributors in attendance, as well as several key late-season additions.

Secondly, an intense layer of fog moved over the field, killing any chance of a downfield aerial attack – the heart and soul of Mohney's well-conceived offense.

And last, Miramar had no answer for MAG's power running game, which helped the Mad Dawgs win this season's Best of the West title and makes them the odds on favorite in Tuesday's championship game against the winner of last Tuesday's game between 7th Engineer Support Battalion and 11th Marine Regiment. The 7th ESB vs. 11th Marines showdown marks the start of a play-off abbreviated by the loss of several teams that otherwise might have qualified, but had to abort their seasons because of recent or impending deployments as America gears up for a possible war in the Middle East.

The same contingencies factored heavily into the long-awaited showdown, which already had been postponed once, and ultimately didn't live up to the hype because of the Marine Corps' mobilization – a process that wound up leaving MAG stronger and Miramar weaker as football teams.

Nonetheless, MAG wasn't playing down its victory.

"We wanted to prove a point tonight," said MAG player of the year candidate Mar-

tin Hagan, who finished the game with 171 rushing yards and two touchdowns on 20 carries. "We proved a point by winning the Best of the West (tournament), and we wanted to do the same thing against Miramar.

"All year long, this was the team we knew we had to beat to be the champions and that's what we did tonight. We earned our respect."

Hagan wasn't the only MAG speedster to run rampant over Miramar's defense.

Lawrence, in his debut with MAG, delivered two key touchdown runs in the second half, which catapulted the Mad Dawgs (9-1) over Miramar (6-2).

With MAG hanging on to an 8-7 lead in the third quarter, Shepard pulled a rabbit from his hat by calling "Fake 24 Slot Reverse."

The coach couldn't have made a better play call in the thick fog; Miramar bought the fake handoff and failed to locate the ball as Lawrence raced down the sideline until he was invisible, giving MAG a 16-7 lead.

Later in the fourth quarter, Lawrence, who rushed for more than 100 yards in his first game as a Mad Dawg, got loose for his second score on a 39-yard scamper.

Not to be outdone, Hagan sealed the deal with his own 50-yard touchdown run late in the fourth quarter.

Mohney, who won last year's base championship and compiled a 36-5 record during his four years in charge of Miramar's football program, gave all the credit to Shepard, who coached under him as an assistant last season.

Moreover, Mohney expressed no displea-

sure with MAG's late-season acquisitions. Mohney said his buddy put together a good game plan and MAG executed well.

"This was all about giving these guys one last chance to play ball before they deploy," Mohney said. "This is the last time a lot of these guys will put pads on for a long time and I just wanted them to play their best.

"We didn't have our full team, but that's not an excuse. MAG is a good team and they deserved to win tonight."



Miramar Coach Mohney tries to inspire his team to come back versus the Mad Dawgs in the second half. The Jaguars were only down by one at the half with a score of 8-7. Photo by Cpl. David B. Bailey



Quarterback Jim Shepard of the Mad Dawgs signals for a timeout during the first quarter to reconvene the team's thoughts. As well as playing for the Mad Dawgs, Shepard is also the team's head coach. Photo by Cpl. David B. Bailey

Chapel weekly schedule of events

Holy Family Catholic Parish

- ◆ Mass: 11 a.m. Sunday, 11:30 a.m. weekdays.
- ◆ Rosary: 10:30 a.m. Sunday.
- ◆ Confession: 10:15 a.m. Sundays. For appointments call Father Berchmanz at 577-1333.
- ◆ Baptism: Normally the first Sunday of the month. Call chaplain's office for details.
- ◆ Marriage: Call chaplain for details at least six months before wedding.
- ◆ Instruction in the Catholic faith (RCIA). Call chaplain's office for details.
- ◆ Scripture Class: 7 p.m. Wednesday in Chapel Center.
- ◆ Choir Practice: 6 p.m. Wednesday in Main Chapel.

Protestant

- ◆ Sunday: Choir rehearsal at 9 a.m.
Liturgical worship at 9:30 a.m.
Adult/Youth/Children Bible study at 10:45 a.m.
- ◆ Tuesday: Morning prayer group (Room 4) at 6 a.m.
Contemporary Gospel Service at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesday: Crafts and conversation at 9 a.m. Free childcare provided.
- ◆ Thursday: Liturgical choir rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.

CMC,
continued from page 1

day is the best and best-educated in the

world.

But government has a responsibility to the men and women in exchange for their “special contract with that all-volunteer

Free movies from MCCS

Friday

Empire (R) 4:30 p.m.

Analyze That (R) 6:30 p.m.

The Friday After Next (R) 8:30 p.m.

Saturday

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (PG) 6:30 p.m.

8 Crazy Nights (PG-13) 8:30 p.m.

Sunday

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (PG) 1:00 p.m.

8 Mile (R) 6:30 p.m.

The Station Theater is equipped with a 35 mm projection system and Dolby digital surround sound. All movies are free for DoD ID card holders and their guests. For movie synopses see the current theater flyer or call 577-4143.

force,” he said.

“When young men and women raise their hand to join one of the armed services, they are signing a contract to do what must be done. Those of us who are privileged to lead must meet their expectations because their expectations are equally important as ours.”

Gen. Jones said that when he became commandant in 1999, the nation was spending roughly 2.8 percent of its gross domes-

tic product on defense.

He said the military was “woefully under funded.”

But times changed and circumstances changed, and the United States now spends almost 4 percent of GDP on national defense. “What a difference it has made,” Gen. Jones said. “Four cents on the dollar for the national security and the global relationships that this country has seems a modest price to pay for the freedoms we enjoy.”

Gen. Jones thanked his fellow members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, all present at the ceremony, saying it demonstrates “a degree of teamwork that is unparalleled and will continue to develop in the years ahead.”

He said the Marines are ready for whatever may happen. “This is a time when Marines, along with their colleagues in other services, are marching to the sound of distant drums,” he said. “We do so with full confidence that we know who we are, we know what we do, and if we must fight, we will fight and we will win.”

He said the United States would prefer not to fight, but if it must, “we will get through the difficult time, the world will be a better place, and peace will continue its inevitable march toward its inevitable destiny.”

The commandant’s wife, Diane, received the Distinguished Public Service

Award from Navy Secretary Gordon R. England. She was cited for her efforts in establishing and “institutionalizing” the Marines’ Exceptional Family Member Program.

Air Force Gen. Joseph Ralston will hand over the reins of the U.S. European Command to Gen. Jones in a ceremony Thursday at the command’s Patch Barracks headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany.

Brig. Gen. Hubbard Memorial Service

A memorial service for Brig. Gen. Jay W. Hubbard is scheduled at the MCAS Miramar Chapel, Jan. 24, at 1 p.m. A reception at the Officer’s Club will follow.

During his distinguished career, Brig. Gen. Hubbard spent World War II on the ground at Bougainville, Emirau, Guam and Okinawa. After World War II, he became an aviator and took part at both Korea and Vietnam as a pilot. He led the air strikes in 1951 that made it possible for U.S. troops fighting in Korea finally take what became known to history as “Heartbreak Ridge.”

ATFW, continued from page 1

fore deployment and conducts a variety of combat and humanitarian missions. The ATF, meanwhile, is a Naval force that has not necessarily trained together as an integrated unit. However, the ATF must be ready to respond to any possible contingency that may arise during transit.

I Marine Expeditionary Force is made up of more than 45,000 Marines and Sailors serving at bases and stations throughout the southwestern United States. Major subordinate commands include 1st Marine Division and 1st Force Service Support Group, both headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, headquartered at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. I MEF units are also stationed at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, at Twentynine Palms, and MCAS Yuma, Ariz.

“Just under 5,000” 3rd MAW Marines and Sailors are among those deploying with ATFW. While in transit, those Marines and Sailors will be part of the ATFW landing force, according to Col. Stuart L. Knoll, commander, Landing Force West and command-

ing officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16.

“We are just forward deploying right now. We’ve got three areas of responsibility, we have to transit. Just because we are heading west doesn’t mean that we’ll wind up at a specific spot,” said Knoll. “We do have a destination, but as we travel through these AORs, we could be called to do any kind of contingency operation, and we are ready for that.” As the commander of the landing force, Knoll would be responsible for conducting any shore-based operations that may be required during the transit of the ATF.

President George W. Bush has made no decision about military action against Iraq. However, our forces are trained, prepared and ready should they be called upon. These deployments are a prudent step to increase military capabilities in the region, according to I MEF officials.

“We are now waiting for further guidance as to what we do when we are forward deployed,” said Knoll. “This level of preparedness is how the Navy/Marine Corps team operates 365 days a year.”

According to Knoll, training and preparation are an everyday part of life for the Marines.

“Preparation for our Marines is pretty

much ongoing. We are always ready, as Marines, to go forward when our nation calls,” he said.

The deploying ships are: USS Boxer, USS Bonhomme Richard, USS Cleveland, USS Dubuque, USS Anchorage, USS Comstock, and USS Pearl Harbor. During the transit, the ships will be under the command of U.S. Navy Capt. Kenny Golden, commander, Amphibious Squadron One. Captain Golden will be embarked USS BOXER.

Once in the North Arabian Gulf region, the ships will join other amphibious ships in the area to form a larger ATF, commanded by Rear Adm. W. Clyde Marsh, commander, Amphibious Group Three.

Knoll has confidence in his deploying Marines and the Marines in the rear supporting.

“The best thing about being a commander is you get to see the Marines and how they respond to these things and it’s very heartwarming. The families are very much supportive. They obviously don’t want their loved ones to head forward, and when we do head forward like this, there are a lot of unknowns,” said Knoll. “But the morale is great. Marines always want to move forward

- that’s what we train for.

Knoll added, “We don’t necessarily look forward to going into combat, but we train for that and we train to answer our nation’s call.”

OI, continued from page 7

In January 2002 Operation Interdependence began supporting about 1,100 Marines from a battalion landing team. Within six months they doubled that number by supporting the 2,200 Marines and sailors of the 11th MEU (SOC) during their regularly scheduled deployment to the Central Command Area of Operations.

“We had humble beginnings by supporting a battalion landing team, then adding the 11th MEU (SOC),” Renteria said. “We are about to support more than 4,000 troops, then add another 2,000 in ninety days and by the end of the year add another very sizeable number.”

To learn more about Operation Interdependence or to see what you can do to help, visit their Web site at www.oidelivers.com.